

Remarks

Claims 19, 21-32, 34-36 and 42 are being examined on the merits. Claims 1-18, 20 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 33 and 37-41 have been withdrawn. Claims 19, 21-31, 35, 36 and 42 have been amended with this response. Amendments do not introduce new matter and are provided to further describe Applicants' claimed invention. Entry and allowance of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action mailed June 12, 2009, the Examiner provisionally rejected the claims as a provisional double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101, for allegedly claiming the same invention as that of co-pending Application No. 11/648,384. Applicants first note that U.S. Application No. 11/648,384 is a divisional patent application divided from the subject Application for patent. As such, under 35 U.S.C. 121 and MPEP 804, "A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made, or on an application filed as a result of such a requirement, shall not be used as a reference either in the Patent and Trademark Office or in the courts against a divisional application or against the original application or any patent issued on either of them, if the divisional application is filed before the issuance of the patent on the other application." On another note, patent rules also hold that a terminal disclaimer is not required in whichever of two co-pending applications first receives a notice of allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that it would be considered premature to offer any further submission at this point. Applicants respectfully request the provisional double patenting rejection be held in abeyance until the Examiner has agreed to allowable subject matter in this application or in U.S. Application No. 11/648,384.

On page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 19, 21-32, 34-36 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,602,292 (hereinafter "Burkinshaw").

Applicants respectfully submit that anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be found in the cited reference. In another words, this means that the invention, in its entirety, must be anticipated by the cited reference. Several court decisions have affirmed and clarified the requirements for anticipation by emphasizing that the cited reference

must not only disclose all the elements, but that they must be “arranged as in the claim.” See *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.* 722 F.2d 1542, 1548 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Net MoneyIN, Inc. v. VeriSign, Inc.*, No. 01-CV-441 (D. Ariz. Oct. 18, 2005). *Net MoneyIN, Inc.*, has further spelled out the requirements for anticipation by stating,

“The meaning of the expression ‘arranged as in the claim’ is readily understood in relation to claims drawn to things such as ingredients mixed in some claimed order. In such instances, a reference that discloses all the claimed ingredients, but not in the order claimed, would not anticipate, because the reference would be missing any disclosure of the limitation of the claimed invention “arranged as in the claim.” But the ‘arranged as in the claim’ requirement is not limited to such a narrow set of ‘order of limitation’ claims. Rather, our precedent informs that the ‘arranged as in the claim’ requirement applies to all claims and refers to the need for an anticipatory reference to show all of the limitations of the claims arranged or combined in the same ways as recited in the claims, not merely in a particular order.”

In *Net MoneyIN, Inc.*, the court cited *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.* 730 F.2d 1452 (Fed Cir. 1984) and instructed that even if a cited reference contained all of the elements of a claim, if the cited reference was directed to a different device operating in a different way it did not anticipate the claim, as described below:

“Although the prior art reference could be said to contain all of the elements of the claimed invention, it did not anticipate under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because it ‘disclose[d] an entirely different device, composed of parts distinct from those of the claimed invention and operating in a different way.’”

Net MoneyIN, Inc. also referenced *Ecolchem, Inc. v. Southern California Edison Co.* 227 F.3d 1361 (Fed. Cir. 2000) and reiterated that to anticipate a claim, a cited reference must offer a discussion that clearly linked its elements to that of the claim that is was said to anticipate, as described below:

“...we concluded that the reference could not anticipate the claimed invention because there was no link between that figure and the general discussion...In another words, we concluded that although the reference taught all the elements of the claim, it did not contain a discussion suggesting or linking hydrazine with the mixed bed in the figure, and thus did not show the invention arranges as in the claim.

Net MoneyIN, Inc. further referenced the findings in *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, and concluded that “unless a reference discloses within the four corners of the document not only all of the limitations arranged or combined in the same way as recited in the claim, it cannot be

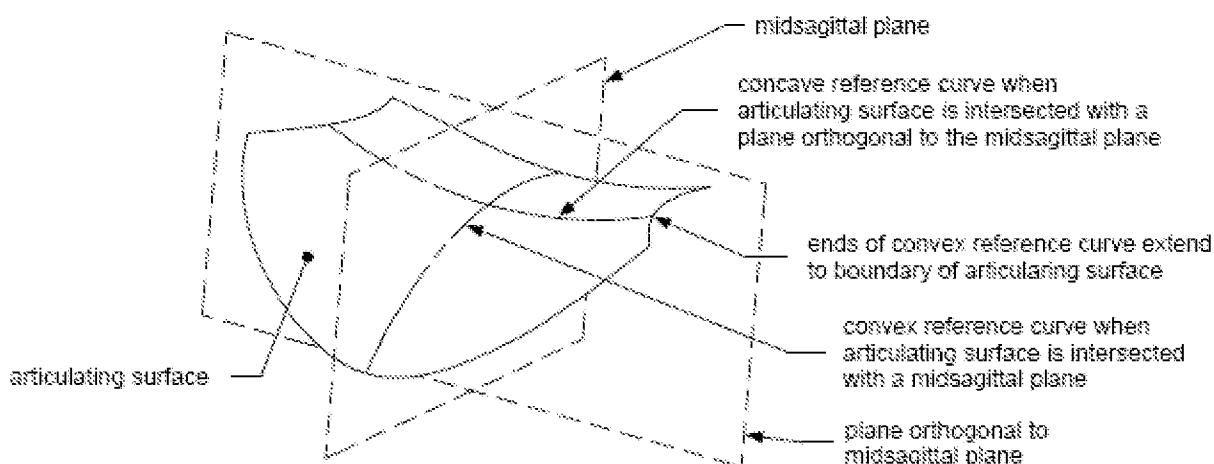
said to prove prior invention of the thing claimed and, thus, cannot anticipate under 35 U.S.C. § 102.”

Referring back to Burkinshaw, Applicants again point out that Burkinshaw does not teach each and every element of Applicants’ claims. Burkinshaw also does not teach or suggest all the limitations arranged or combined in the same way as recited by Applicants’ claimed invention and Burkinshaw does not link elements as claimed by Applicants. For example, Burkinshaw does not teach an artificial intervetebral disc. Just as in *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH*, in which it was ruled that a different device, composed of parts distinct from those of the claimed invention and operating in a different way does not anticipate a claim, Burkinshaw expressly teaches not only a different device, but one composed of parts distinct from Applicants’ claimed invention and which are expressly described as operating in a different way. Burkinshaw expressly teaches a patellar prosthesis that is known to those skilled in the relevant field to operate in a different way from a prosthetic intervertebral disc. For example, a patella is part of a synovial joint and the patella is considered by those skilled in the art as bone comprised of hard tissue, meaning that a patellar prosthesis will be a device that replaces hard tissue (at a synovial joint). In contrast, those skilled in the relevant art know that an intervetebral disc is not part of a synovial joint. Indeed, it is known by those skilled in the relevant art that an intervertebral disc is comprised of substantially soft tissue soft, which means that an intervertebral disc prosthesis will be a device that replaces soft tissue. Furthermore, as one would expect, nowhere in the Burkinshaw reference is there anything expressly or implicitly linking the patellar prosthesis to another part of the body, such as vertebra, nor would one of ordinary skill in art link Burkinshaw’s patellar prosthesis to any other part of the body. Burkinshaw also expressly teaches that its patellar prosthesis operate generally by requiring three components (see e.g., Figs. 10, 13, 21, 23), which means that Burkinshaw’s device not only operates in a different manner from that of Applicants’ claimed invention, the Burkinshaw patellar prosthesis also clearly has parts distinct from and different than Applicants’ claimed invention. It is further noted that nowhere in Burkinshaw is there anything expressly or implicitly linking its three component operation with any other type of operation, such as that claimed by the Applicants. Burkinshaw expressly teaches that its patellar prosthesis must operate by having one component articulate with a second component (i.e., articulation surface 44 of Burkinshaw superior surface

moves relative to fixation surface 74 of second component). This is contrary to the claimed invention in which the articulating surface is fixed relative to an inferior fixation surface. Burkinshaw also expressly requires and operates with three articulating surfaces--articulating surface 44, inferior surface 44 articulating with slide surface 78, and articulation between articulation component 32 and base component 34 (see e.g., Col. 2, ll. 10-12; Col. 3, ll. 14-16; Col 4). Both articulation component 32 and base component 34 have superior and inferior surfaces. The patellar prosthesis of Burkinshaw is solely designed to be "affixed to patellar bone" (Abstract, Col 2, l. 10; claims). Thus, Burkinshaw does not teach or suggest a single articulating surface. Burkinshaw also does not teach or suggest a disc body having an inferior surface adapted for fixation to and is adjacent to vertebral bone. Moreover, Burkinshaw does not teach that any individual component of the patellar prosthesis operates separately at the patella. The Examiner appears to be trying to remove essential components in Burkinshaw, such as components 42 and 34, which would render the Burkinshaw device unoperable and unsuitable for its intended purpose.. Accordingly, and contrary to the Examiner's position, Applicants have shown that Burkinshaw does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention nor all the structural limitations of the claim and does not anticipate the claims.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 19, 21-32, 34-36 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,039,763 (hereinafter, "Shelekov"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection and submit again that Shelekov does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention as amended with this paper.

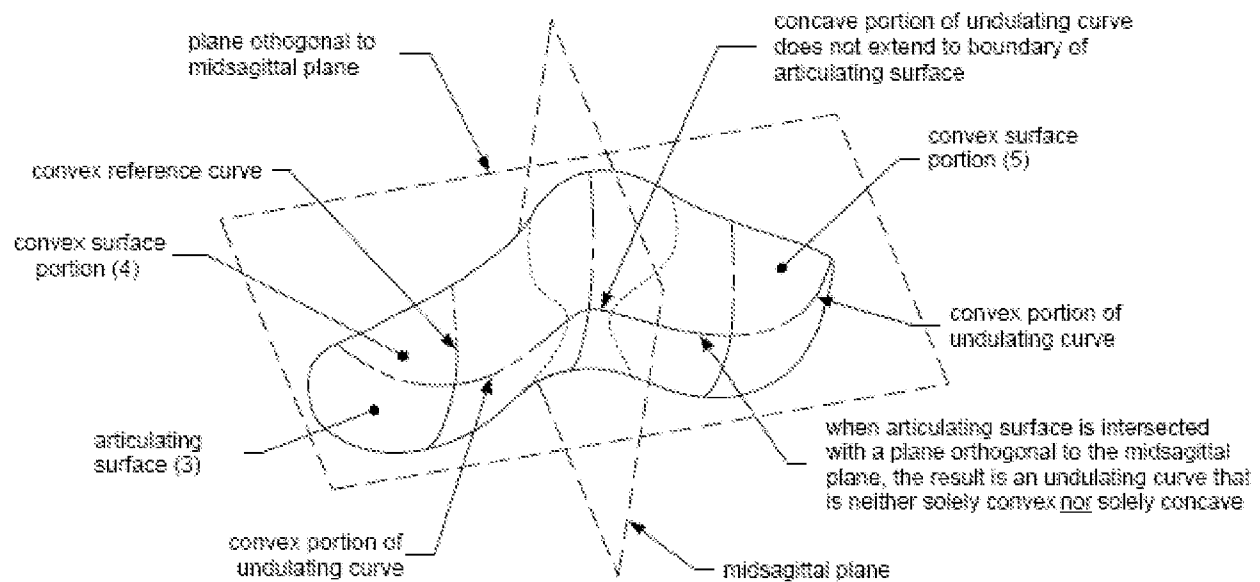
Applicants refer the Examiner to the claimed invention and reference a representative image of the articulating surface as illustrated on the next page.



Applicants claim a superior surface that is substantially an articulating surface, wherein a convex reference curve is formed when the articulating surface is intersected with a midsagittal plane, wherein concave reference curves are formed when the articulating surface is intersected with planes orthogonal to the midsagittal plane, wherein the ends of the concave reference curves extend to boundaries of the single articulating surface. The claimed invention describes the articulating surface by concave reference curves in a first plane and convex reference curves in a plane orthogonal to the first plane. The claimed invention strongly contrasts with the device of Shelekov.

First of all, Shelekov relies on a device that is expressly stated to have two articulating surfaces 3, 12 and the two articulating surfaces of Shelekov are, by express design, stated to operate and to articulate like a human knee. The human knee, like Shelekov's device is a bimodal articulating surface and designed to sharply contrast with that claimed in the subject application.

A representative image of articulating surface 3 of Shelekov is illustrated on the next page.



The figure above shows clearly that Shelekov does not teach an articulating surface that meets the requirements of Applicants' claimed invention. For example, Shelekov's articulating surfaces (3) is expressly shaped to represent the two condyles of the knee (Col. 6, ll. 1-21), represented above and in Shelekov's specification and drawings as condyles (4, 5). For articulating surface 3, each condyle surface is convex; however when articulating surface 3 is intersected with a plane orthogonal to the midsagittal plane, the result is an undulating curve that is not solely convex or concave. Moreover, while a portion of the undulating curve is concave (when the surface is intersected with a plane orthogonal to the midsagittal plane), the concave portion is only a small portion in a center section and, hence, does not extend to the boundaries of articulating surface 3. In addition, at least two articulating surface portions are required by Shelekov on a given disc body (3 or 12), which renders each surface of Shelekov as bimodal. Applicants articulating surface is not so arranged. Thus, it can be seen that the Shelekov device does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention nor all of the structural limitations of Applicants' claim and, therefore, cannot anticipate the claims.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 19, 21-32, 34-36 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,405,400 (hereinafter, "Lindscheid"). Applicants respectfully submit that Lindscheid does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claims. Lindscheid also does not teach or suggest all the limitations

arranged or combined in the same way as recited by Applicants' claimed invention and Lindscheid does not link elements as claimed by Applicants. For example, Lindscheid does not teach an artificial intervetebral disc. Just as in *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH*, in which it was ruled that a different device, composed of parts distinct from those of the claimed invention and operating in a different way does not anticipate a claim, Lindscheid expressly teaches not only a different device, but one composed of parts distinct from Applicants' claimed invention and which are expressly described as operating in a different way. Lindscheid expressly teaches a joint prosthesis for joints in which one bone is permitted a substantial degree of rotary circumduction with respect to the long bone and in particular for the trapezium and first metacarpal, which is the thumb joint (Col. 1). Lindscheid further requires a two component prosthesis for replacing a joint between a long bone and a second bone. Those skilled in the art know that vertebra are not long bone. Those skilled in the relevant field also knows that a thumb joint operates in a different way that that of a prosthetic intervertebral disc. Those skilled in the relevant art know that a thumb joint is a synovial joint. It is also known by those of skill in the relevant art that an intervertebral disc is not a synovial joint. The bones that make up a thumb joint are bone comprised of hard tissue. This is contrasted with the intervetebral disc that is comprised of soft tissue. The mechanisms that allow for movement at a thumb is also known to be entirely different that that used around an intervetebral disc. Those skilled in the art further understand that a prosthetic joint at the thumb is intended to replace hard tissue, which contrasts with what is known by those skilled in the art about a prosthetic intevetebral disc, which is known to replace soft tissue. Nowhere in the Lindscheid reference is there anything expressly or implicitly linking the thumb joint prosthesis to another part of the body, such as vertebra, nor would those of ordinary skill in art ever link Lindscheid's thumb prosthesis to any other part of the body. Lindscheid expressly teaches that its thumb joint prosthesis operates and requires two components, the first member has "an enlarged head" and "an elongated stem that is appropriately sized and shaped to fit within the surgically exposed marrow recess in the proximal end portion of the first metacarpal" (Col. 2, ll. 36-42) and a second member that a proximally extending step and an enlarged head for bearing the articulating surface of the first member (Col. 2, ll. 46-52). The structures of Lindscheid are expressly designed to replace bone (hard) tissue. This means that Lindscheid's device not only operates in a different manner from that of

Applicants' claimed invention, the thumb prosthesis of Lindscheid also clearly has parts distinct from and different than Applicants' claimed invention. It is further noted that nowhere in Lindscheid is there anything expressly or implicitly linking its two component operation with any other type of operation, such as that claimed by the Applicants. Lindscheid expressly teaches that its thumb prosthesis must operate by having the first member articulate with the second member. Lindscheid also expressly requires and operates with at least two articulating surfaces—one on the first member that articulates with a second articulating surface on the second member. Both first and second members have superior and inferior surfaces. By reading the Lindscheid reference, it is clear that the joint prosthesis of Lindscheid is designed solely as a thumb joint prosthesis (or any joint having bone arranged and operating exactly as those of a thumb joint). Thus, the evidence shows that Lindscheid does not teach or suggest a single articulating surface. Lindscheid also does not teach or suggest a disc body having an inferior surface adapted for fixation to and is adjacent to vertebral bone. Moreover, Lindscheid does not teach a single articulating surface is fixed relative to the inferior surface. Accordingly, and contrary to the Examiner's position, Applicants have shown that Lindscheid does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention nor all the structural limitations of the claim and does not anticipate the claims.

To this end, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, Burkinshaw, Shelekov, Lindscheid and other cited documents, disclose all Applicants' claimed elements nor do any of the cited references arrange or combine elements in the same way as recited in the claims nor do any of the cited references clearly link elements as claimed by Applicants. Thus, none of the cited documents can be said to anticipate the claimed invention. Because the cited references lack a teaching or suggestion of all claimed elements and lack a teaching or suggestion of arranging or combining all claimed elements as is arranged in the subject claims and do not teach or suggest linking elements as claimed by Applicants, this means the cited references also do not provide sufficient disclosure to render the claimed invention obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as currently claimed is patentable and is distinct from Burkinshaw, Shelekov, Lindscheid and the other cited references. Applicants have made a substantial showing of lack of anticipation and lack of obviousness. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and respectfully request the application be allowed to proceed to allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks presented with this paper, Applicants respectfully submit amendments to the claims as provided in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2 of this paper. Applicants further submit that no new matter has been introduced with the amendments; said amendments are believed to place the Application in condition for allowance.

This paper includes a request for an extension of time and the appropriate fees. Should any additional fees be due, other than the issue fee, Applicants herewith authorize the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, other than the issue fee, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 07-0153. Any overpayments should be deposited to the same deposit account.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: December 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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